

May 18, 1983

LB 17

way for them to react. We are only reinstituting that which had been place since 1967 and in my opinion should continue to be in that same category. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to speak on behalf of the amendment. But you know there are a couple of things going on in here the last couple days that I think we really should give some serious thought to. It is characteristic that when we don't like a particular bill we use all the tools at our disposal to fight it. And, of course, if there are lobbyists on the other side, one of the tools that we use is to cry lobby. I think that you should be careful about when and where you do that sort of thing because every time you do it you debase the institution and you debase individual senators. Every time you exaggerate the power of the lobby and you have done it now two days in a row, you are debasing the institution because you spread the public perception that we are at the whim of a lobby, which we all know is patently ridiculous. We are all individuals with free wills and we all exercise it, and very few in here are influenced much by the lobby, and to exaggerate that power again, I hope you think very, very seriously about what you are doing to the Nebraska Legislature. There is one lobbyist out there on this particular issue as far as I know and Senator Newell cries and cries, and yet on any number of education bills that he has been chief promoter of there has been a lobbyist out there on his behalf. That is not to debase Senator Newell. Because his philosophy happens to comport with the goals of individual lobbyists is not to say that he is somehow immoral or wrong, but likewise I don't think that Senator Newell should turn around and simply because the philosophies of other individual senators in this Legislature happen to comport with the goals of some individual lobbyists, that he should accuse them or Senator Carsten should accuse them or anyone should accuse them of being debased. I think we have to put an end to that sort of tactic. It is interesting that Senator Carsten and others are concerned about what is apparently the lack of process and by that they mean the fact that a couple of these companies didn't come and complain at the committee hearing about the fact that their services were going to be taxed as well as their products. And the irony of that to me is that this occurs because of their lack of sophistication, because they didn't have a lobbyist at that point